

UFO POTPOURRI

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THE ISLANDER PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

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UFO Investigators Photograph Unidentified Object Over Beach

By Gary Watson

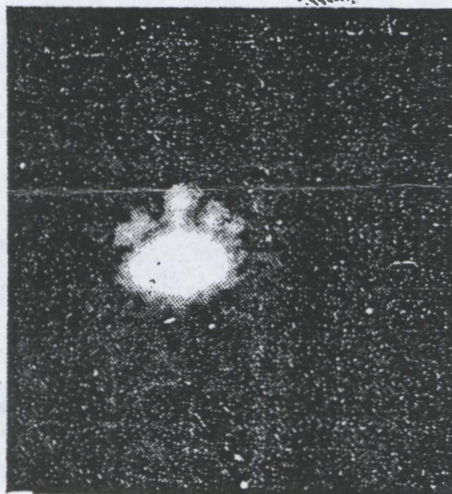
On November 5, an unidentified object was seen and photographed as it hovered over Gulf Breeze. A dozen witnesses and several MUFON (Mutual UFO Network) investigators saw the UFO from the south end of the Bay Bridge.

Photographs were taken by Patti Weatherford and Anne Morrison who used a 440mm lens and fast action 3200 ASA film to capture the image of the "crown" shaped object.

The object seen on this night is believed to be the same type UFO first reported by Ed Walters and scores of other witnesses in 1987. The configuration of "portholes" and the very bright bottom "power" light resembles the outline of the UFO that Ed Walters described in his best selling book "The Gulf Breeze Sightings."

The UFO sightings in Gulf Breeze have been occurring at a record pace since the first of the year, but recently the UFOs have displayed a variety of effects. Before the eyes of scores of people who gather nightly at the Bay Bridge, spectacular rings of lights have appeared

from "out of thin air." These rings of light are made up of separate points of light that often hover making no sound and then suddenly vanish in a clear sky. Often the witnesses can see the structural shape of the object as it travels across the sky and blocks out the stars as it passes. This was the case with this latest sighting when one very skeptical witness looked through his binoculars and said, "Hold on here, I can see something black around it." Another witness, Bland Pugh said, "I could see a definite



Patti Weatherford snapped this photo of the latest UFO to appear in the skies above Gulf Breeze.

curved structural shape above the blazing red light at its bottom."

NASA project to seek signals from alien life

Associated Press

PASADENA, Calif. — NASA is celebrating the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' arrival in the New World with a \$100 million project to search for extraterrestrials.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration will begin setting up equipment in the Mojave Desert next week to carry out the search, which will begin on Oct. 12, Columbus Day.

The holiday was picked because "it celebrates the spirit of exploration," said Michael Klein, manager of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory's portion of the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence.

"What we are trying to understand is ... are we alone in the universe and what is our part in this incredible universe?" Klein said Thursday. "I strongly believe someday we will make contact with other civilizations."

More than 50 searches for alien life have been conducted since 1960, scanning the heavens for radio signals generated by an intelligent civilization in the Milky Way or other galaxies.

NASA's \$100 million effort will be the most extensive ever. It will scan the entire sky for a range of frequencies, conducting a highly sensitive search for radio signals from planets that may exist around 1,000 sunlike stars within 100 light years — 588 trillion miles — of Earth.

"Circumstantial evidence suggests countless Earthlike planets exist in our galaxy," Klein said. "We hope someday we'll detect the existence of other intelligent civilizations from those planets."

Scientists eventually will use sophisticated radio-signal analyzers and giant dish-shaped antennas already located at NASA's Deep Space Network tracking stations at Canberra, Australia; and Goldstone, Calif.

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

A one in a million disaster

Scientists propose plan to save Earth from asteroid crash

Knight-Ridder Newspapers

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. — The chance that the Earth will be struck by a mile-wide asteroid in the next year are greater than the chance that any given person will be struck by lightning — about 1 in a million. But since an asteroid that size could destroy half the planet's population, some NASA scientists say it's a statistic worth worrying about.

"We know that the Earth exists in a swarm of comets and asteroids," said David Morrison, chief of the Space Science Division at NASA Ames Research Center in Mountain View. "With the amount of sky coverage we have today, it would be very unlikely that we'd spot it before it hit."

About 10,000 asteroids have orbits approaching the Earth, and tracking them would require at least six telescopes with 2- to 3-meter mirrors distributed throughout the Northern and Southern hemispheres, Morrison said. As chairman of a 23-person committee of astronomers commissioned by Congress to study the potential problem, Morrison will ask Congress later this year to support a thorough comet and asteroid tracking project.

The six telescopes, "moderate in size by today's standards," would cost \$12 million each, Morrison said.

Using three smaller telescopes in the United States and Australia, astronomers are now tracking comets and asteroids at the rate of one or two a month, Morrison said.

Although there is a slim chance that a giant asteroid could strike the planet at any moment, Morrison says that with proper tracking techniques, astronomers could spot a catastrophic one decades before it would hit the Earth.

Spotting it, however, is only half the battle. The next step would be to go out and meet the meteor, deflecting it from its collision course with the planet.

"The simplest way, we think, to give it a shove is to set off a nuclear bomb next to it," Morrison said, explaining that changing the asteroid's speed by even 1 centimeter a second could avert catastrophe.

The resources needed to spot the deadly asteroids may begin at \$72 million, but the technology to stop them may indeed be out of this world. Before sending a bomb or two beyond the Earth's atmosphere, astronomers would need to send spacecraft to the asteroid to discover what it's made of and to study its exact

position and speed. Asteroids can be made of metal or rock, and comets are usually made of ice, all of which would react differently to a nuclear blast.

If the telescopes could enable astronomers to see the deadly meteors years before hitting the Earth, scientists would have time to develop the technology to stop them, Morrison said.

"I'm not pretending that it's easy, but if you allow several decades, there's no doubt in my mind that we could do it," Morrison said. The project that the 23-astronomer team will propose before Congress this year, however, focuses only on spotting the problems, not stopping them, he said.

An asteroid a mile in diameter would hit the Earth at about 15 miles a second, producing an explosion akin to a million megatons of TNT. Dust and particles produced by the blast would block about 90 percent of the sun's rays and lower the planet's average temperature by 10 to 20 degrees for several months, "until the dust settles," Morrison said.

Scientists say all the world's crops would be destroyed for an entire year, causing half the population to die of starvation.

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Houston Chronicle

Sunday, Sept. 29, 1991

What's that UFO? Experts disagree

Newsday

The strange object now sneaking toward Earth from outer space is probably a spent rocket that boosted a sun-watching spacecraft into solar orbit in 1974, some astronomers said Friday.

The object is probably an old Centaur upper-stage rocket involved in the U.S. launch of a Helios craft, said astronomer Brian Marsden of the International Astronomical Association in Cambridge, Mass.

Other experts disagree. Astron-

omer Donald Yeomans, at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., prefers another launch, such as the Pioneer 4 mission to the moon in 1959, as the source of the space debris.

The object was noticed on Nov. 6 while 2 million miles away. Between about 1 yard and 10 yards in size, it will come within 300,000 miles of Earth on Dec. 5, and then drift away again.

Several other astronomers at the Johnson Space Center in Houston agree with the Helios idea. Marsden is also seeking data on possible Soviet launches.

Scientists: Nuke killer

THE chance you could be killed by an asteroid slamming into the Earth is more than triple the chance you could be killed in a plane crash—one in 20,000, compared with one in 6,000. Those probabilities come from NASA, where astronomers say the Earth will eventually be destroyed by an asteroid. "The Earth is certain to be hit,"

asteroids to save the Earth

says Dr. Clark Chapman of the Planetary Science Institute. "We just don't know when." To prevent that, physicist Edward Teller, father of the hydrogen bomb, suggests "sending out a little something to meet it." A nuclear bomb could explode any asteroid aimed at Earth, says a Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory report.

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Houston Chronicle

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